

Another British location for the ant lion *Euroleon nostras* (Geoffroy) (Neur.: Myrmeleontidae)

A female *Euroleon nostras* was captured in an m.v. trap by Anthony Blunden at Branscombe, South Devon, on 28 July 2001 (O. S. grid reference SY 213881). The insect was placed in a refrigerator in order to calm it down for photography, but was dead when next examined. I was pleased to confirm Tony's identification from this specimen, which now reposes in my own collection.

This species was added to the British fauna by Mendel (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 1-5) and is confined, as a breeding species, to the Sandlings of East Suffolk. It has been the subject of intensive study, funded by the English Nature, RSPB and myself (Plant, 1997. Investigations into the distribution, status and ecology of the ant-lion *Euroleon nostras* (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785) (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) in England during 1997. Unpublished report in Library of English Nature, Peterborough, and an edited version in Plant, 1998. *Suffolk Natural History* **34**: 69-79). Since then, there have been occasional sightings of adults on the south coast of Britain, at Dungeness, East Kent, on 2 September 1998 and at St Leonard's, East Sussex, on 6 September 1998 (Plant & Walker, 1999. *Ent. Rec.* **111**: 95-96). This appears to be the first record from the south-west of Britain.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP.

***Oncomera femorata* (Fabr.) (Col: Oedemeridae) new to Hertfordshire**

Two males and one female of this distinctive, large beetle were attracted to m.v. lights set at Hexton Chalk Pit, Hertfordshire on the night of 21 – 22 July 2001, and independently identified by myself and by Marcel Ashby. Trevor James, the Hertfordshire Coleoptera Recorder, subsequently informed me that this is the first occurrence of the species in the Hertfordshire Vice County.

Hyman and Parsons (1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain, Part 1*. UK Nature Conservation, number 3. JNCC) listed this species in Nationally Notable category B (known or expected from between 30 and 100 ten-kilometre squares of the O.S. National Grid system). They note adults in March, April, June and from September to November, so the present record in July extends the emergence through the summer. The larval biology is quite unknown, though the adult is reportedly associated with woodland and hedgerows. The present site, a Wildlife Trust nature reserve leased from the landowner, is essentially a scrub-invaded, chalk grassland site adjoining mixed, broad-leaved woodland.

I am grateful to the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Patrick Cooper (the landowner) and the reserve warden Nigel Agar for their help and friendly co-operation in organising Herts Moth Group recording meetings at Hexton Chalk Pit.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP.